HOW THE CITY RATE IS AFFECTED BY STATE ENACTMENTS.

till Prevision of the Davis School Law and its Effect—Had Bills of the Last Legislature—Record Bet-ter Than That of Former Legislatures.

Since the adjournment of the Legislature and the opening of the tax books for inion this year, there has been a great spection this year, there has been who study the tax rate from a non-political and strictly business viewpoint as to the effect of the nter on the tax rate and the amount that will be collected for local purposes in various ways. It is admitted that there a great deal of guesswork in regard to the matter and that the results of the legislation cannot be determined fully until there has been a fair test of the laws in operation; but the Tammany Tax Comlopers maintain that the tax rate, which will be in the neighborhood of 2.34 this year, would be lower were it not for the fact that the personal property of the local taxation in the revision of the laws. The law does not affect the real estate of the companies and this will be taxed for local purposes as heretofore, and the champions of the law say that the persona property tax has been of very little consequence anyway and that the loss to the ity on account of it will be more than made up by the lessened assessments on the county due to the lower State tax rate. That there was a considerable income

to the city from the tax on the persona property of the trust companies is shown the fact that the Central Trust Company alone paid in 1900 on over \$5,000,000 worth of property, and that its tax amounted to over \$115,000. The other companies paid in proportion, and this amount is lest to the city by the new laws. This loss shows in the tax levy for this year and it is not offset by the decreased State tax rate, for that does not affect the budget for this year which was made up in the closing months of 1900. It will affect the rate next year, for the lowering of the State rate will be taken into account when the budget for 1902 is made up this fall. On account of the fact that these enactments will not be in full effect for a year and that there is no way to find what their complete result will be until they have had a fair trial there are no data on which to bas e an intelligent analysis of them.

The State Legislature has enacted a great many laws that have affected the tax rate. One which has had a strong effect on it was the Davis School law which contained an arbitrary four-mill provision, by which the city is compelled to make a levy of that amount on all property for the payment of teachers' salaries. This produces a sum in excess of the amount required for the purpose, but it must be complied with and the balance is not available for any other purpose. The amount by which the city expenses were increased by this law is given at the Finance Department as in excess of \$3,000,000. The law has been the object of attack on the part of the whole city government, from the Mayor down. and the Comptroller and the President of the Board of Education have been particularly strong in their denunciation of it.

The enactment of the Franchise Tax law has put the city in a peculfar position. This law was passed in Gov. Roosevelt's term, and it put the assessment of the franchises in the hands of the State Board of Tax Commissioners. This board, after a great many hearings, fixed the assessments at a figure much higher than they had ever been put at before, and the companies owning the franchises at once because of the law in every state. panies owning the franchises at once began a vigorous attack on the law in every way that they could. They attacked the constitutionality of the whole measure and then attacked it in detail, beginning with the justice and the equity of the assessment levied under it. The result has been that the city has not received a cent under the law, and that there is a prospect of a long delay in the payment of the taxes. As a matter of fact, the city needs this money, and its financial officers are going to be "put in a hole" if there is not something coming in soon. They cannot do anything, for the law is in the courts, and before any action can be taken the courts must act in all of the suits that are now pending. Taxes under the law will be collected by the State Board and turned over to the city when the collection is made.

The record of the last Legislature in the matter of mandatory legislation is admitted by the official of the Finance Denartment.

The record of the last Legislature in the matter of mandatory legislation is admitted by the officials of the Finance Department to have been better than the records of its predecessors. There were only two bills passed that have been condemned by the officials as entirely bad. One of these is the Atlantic Avenue Improvement bill, the active responsible for one which makes the city responsible for one-half the cost of the depression of the tracks of the Long Island Rallroad Company in Brooklyn. When this Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn. When this improvement was first ordered the comintended to build a tunnel under the East River at about the point that the Rapid Fransit tunnel will cross, and in view of Transit tunnel will cross, and in view of this the city was ready to pay part of the cost of the improvement in Brooklyn. This was the arrangement entered into by the former city of Brooklyn, but on the announcement that the Rapid Transit Commission intended to build a tunnel the company decided not to have one at that point and the plan fell through. Then the company tried to get the city to pay part of the cost of the depression of the track. It redepression of the track. It re-fused and a bill was introduced in the Legis-lature taxing one-half of the estimated cost of \$2,500,000 on the city anyway. The Legis-lature passed the bill, and it was sent down for the Mayor to act on. He held it for a few days and then vetoed it. He sent back to the Legislature a message in which he denounced the bill in detail, and said it would never be acceptable to the city of New York. The Legislature promptly passed it over the veto, and it was signed by the Governor. It puts on the city an expense
of at least \$1,250,000, and perhaps more.

Another bill that has been denounced
by all the city officials is the one known as

the Bedford Avenue Improvement bill. This bill does not in itself commit the city to a large expenditure, but it violates a rule that has been in operation in the open-ing of streets for over half a century in this city. It has been the custom since the middle of the nineteenth century for the cost of all streets of sixty feet in width to be assessed against the abutting property on the principle that the property was benefited enough to make it equitable and just that it should bear the entire cost. In cases where the streets opened were more than sixty feet in width the city has borne one-half of the cost of the city has borne one-half of the cost of the additional width. Thus, in the case of the extension of Bedford avenue, it was decided to make the street eighty feet wide, and under the rule that the city has followed for years the entire community would have been taxed for the cost of one-half of twenty feet, or one-eighth of the entire cost of the road, being 12½ per cent. Because of the local conditions a more liberal arrangement was offered by the city through the Board for the Equalization of Assessments, and at the hearings on the subject there was a long controversy, in which the property owners were obliged to admit that they really had no grounds for complaint. They said, however, that they intended to have the however, that they intended to have the city pay more, and they went to Albany and got the Legislature to pass a law under which the city is made to pay 66 2-3 per cent. of the cost of the street. The danger in this lies in the fact that the city will be opening new streets for the next 100 years of its life, and this action of the Legislature will be used as a lever to force it to take similar action in regard to other streets.

a game of Paseball and a general good time.

The principal speakers were Louis F.

Post, Chicago; Gen. Henry Edwin Tremain, Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Secretary of the National Municipal League; Messrs. Fred diction proved the Wash't a diction proved the Wash't a diction proved streets.

Whilmrichs, Charles Frederic Adams, Robert, Stewart Patrick Hayes, Samuel Seabury, James R. Brown and Lucien Knapp.

THE STRAIGHT EDGE PEOPLE. ANOTHER MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE Progress of a New York City Con

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3 .- A sketch of the cooperative colony in New York city known as the Straight Edge People is given by the Rev. Dr. Alexander Kent in the latest bulletin from the Bureau of Labor. The colony has already been described in THE

The Straight Edge People have their headquarters at 240 Sixth avenue, New York, where they have established themselves "for the purpose of living and working together harmoniously and establishing industrial enterprises on harmonious principles. For a year or more they have published a little paper called the Straight Edge, the objects of which are set forth to be: "To make suggestions and formulate plans for the application of the Golden

Rule to business and social relations." The subscription price is designed to pay the cost of the paper, ink, postage and 35 cents an hour for the mechanical and clerical work in connection with the paper. If the receipts exceed the cost of these items the surplus is divided among the subscribers. If they fall short the subscribers are apprised of the deficiency and those who wish to apply the Golden Rule

"There are no paid contributors and there is no space for sale for any purpose or at any price. Nobody is in debt for the Straight Edge. It is easier and cheaper to forgive debts than to keep books."

Their industries at present are job printing, sign making and bread baking. The last named industry they hope to develop into a cooperative kitchen from which to serve wholesome food at cost to families in the neighborhood. They have recently taken a farm on Staten Island where they hope to raise much of the produce needed for their restaurant and kitchen where they hope to raise much of the pro-duce needed for their restaurant and kitchen in the city. They have also a small manufacturing plant with which to turn out certain novelties they propose to make. Finally they hope to establish a school of cooperative industry where they will teach the art of social and industrial cooper-

teach the art of social and industrial cooperation.

These people profess to believe it both possible and practicable to apply in actual business and social affairs the principles enunciated in the Sermon on the Mount, and to do this without running away from civilization. They call their institution a school of methods designed to instruct people in the best way of doing this.

At present the Straight Edge People for economic reasons, are living in a communal home; but their plan contemplates complete economic independence of the workers. Each worker, young or old, regardless of occupation or skill, receives 35 cents an hour, which each worker is free to-use in establishing a home outside. They believe in large individual freedom believe in large individual freedom encourage individual initiative in all matters. Any surplus of earnings over and above the 35 cents an hour for each worker employed, goes to provide

industrial opportunities for workers.

These people have an odd way of distributing their work and their responsibilities. They have a suggestion box bilities. They have a suggestion box into which any member may put anonymous written suggestions regarding the distribution and execution of the work to be done. These suggestions are taken up and discussed at the weekly business

meetings.

Each worker voluntarily assumes the responsibility for such work as he feels himself best fitted to do, and all arrangements self best fitted to do, and all arrangements. are subject to criticism by any of the mem bers. The more disagreeable work bers. The more disagreeable work is shifted as often as practicable in order to equalize the burden. When one has chosen his work he is trusted to do it without supervision, but encouraged to consult his fellow workers in case of doubt as to the

fellow worners in case of the best methods.

This plan of dispending with a boss is said to work well and to have a wholesome and stimulating effect upon the workers. A system of time cards enables each worker to keep his own record, which is criticized, amended and indorsed at the criticized, amended and all payments are worker to keep his own record, which is criticized, amended and indorsed at the weekly meetings, and all payments are based on the number of hours so returned.

The organization started two years ago with only \$50 borrowed capital and four members. Being located in New York city members. Being located in New York city the rent problem has always been a serious one and the growth necessarily slow. There are now twelve adult workers in New York ity and several additional will be employed on the farm.

TWO WRECKS ON NEW FOUNDLAND. The Vera and the Acts Go Ashore Near Cape Race.

St. JOHN'S, N. F., Aug. 3 .- Two steamships, the Vera and the Acis, were wrecked in a fog last night on the Newfoundland coast near Cape Race, making six vessels which have met disaster there since Jan. 1 last.

The Norwegian steamship Vera, bound from Liverpool for Louisburg, struck in Blackhead Cove, near Renews, a few yards from where the Delmar was wrecked last month. The ship stripped her bottom plates for 75 feet and is full of water. The crew abandoned her this morning, and she will probably go to pieces to-

night.

The Acis, from Galveston to Hamburg, grounded shortly before daylight. She is wedged on the rocks beyond a steep range of cliffs. The first boat launched swamped in the surf, and the crew had great trouble in getting to land. The ship is in a dangerous position and is likely to break up before morning.

AERONAUT HAS A FALL. Frank McBride Injured by the Collapse

of His Balloon Near Boston. Boston, Aug. 3.-Frank P. McBride, the aëronaut, who made a balloon ascension at Brooklyn, N. Y., a few weeks ago, and who was nearly killed through an accident to his balloon, met with a serious accident while making an ascension at the Point of Pines yesterday afternoon. Shortly after 5 o'clock McBride started en his upward journey. The balloon had risen about one hundred feet and was moving in a westerly direction when it

collapsed

The falling distance was not great enough to enable McBride to use his parachute, but fortunately for him a strong easterly wind was blowing which served to keep wind was blowing the served to keep the strong enough to break the balloon in the air long enough to break his fall. He struck the ground, landing on his feet, and toppled over on his back, stunned. McBride sustained slight inof the left foot was split.

FRANCHISE TAXERS DINE At a Dollar a Head-First General Outing of the League.

Between 300 and 400 members of the Franchise Tax and Municipal Ownership League sat down to dinner in the big annex of Donnelly's Boulevard Hotel at College Point yesterday afternoon, and after dinner there were speeches by half a dozen or more leading lights of the organization. It was the league's first general outing since its organization four years ago and besides the dinner—which was a dollar dinner and a very good one—there were dancing, a game of baseball and a general good

FAIR CAPTIVE AGAIN APPEALS FOR HELP.

his Time She Signs Herself Ethel McGuire Plain Clothes Men of the Harbor Po-Hee Think It Is a Case of a Slaver With a Whole Comie Opera Chorus Aboard.

Another bottle message from a fair capive in the cabin of the low, rakish craft with a skull and cross bones flag at her truck came ashore yesterday. It had a different signature from either of the two previous ssages. That fact tends to confirm the suspicion of the plain-clothes men of the harbor police that some slaver has put in here lately and has men ashore kidnapping whole comic opera chorus. 1 The plainclothes men of the harbor police wear ollskins and sou'westers when on a case. Yesterday's message was picked up the dock at Martin's Stores, Brooklyn. It

"I am kept in a barge by two men at the foot of West Tenth street. If you don't

come soon they will starve me or ruin me.

"ETHEL MCGUIRE."

It was contained in a soda water bottle. As the previous messages were in beer bottles, it is surmised that the buccaneer, or pirate, or slaver, has suspected his prisoners of sending messages afloat after splicing the main brace and has cut off their grog. Perhaps he didn't know that soda water bottles float, too. Or it may be Ethel likes her b. a s. while Violet prefers the liquid that made Milwaukee famous. A. Violet Cullen. 208 East Fourteenth street, was the name and address signed to the second bottle message to come ashore. Another named and a Boston address were on the first message. Neither address her floating prison as a barge. The other girls were sure they were on a yacht. Probably they haven't been to sea very often and can't tell a catamaran from a stone boat. The foot of West Tenth street is the most definite latitude and longitude yet given in the messages. That's what has bothered the harbor police heretofore—the girls didn't figure out their position closely enough. It was contained in a soda water bottle.

When yesterday's message got around to the police gunboat Patrol the latitude and longitude of West Tenth street was looked up in the gazetteer. Very soon and longitude of West Tenth street was looked up in the gazetteer. Very soon afterward the Patrol's rapid-fire gun on the for'ard deck was double shotted, the starboard watch told off to repel boarders, while the port watch cleared deck for action. Then the little steamer left her moorings under sealed orders not to be opened until she was out of sight of press agents.

As she steamed away from Pier A the anxious watchers could see that she bore nor' nor'west and then to the nor' by west. Evidently she intended getting under the lee of Hoboken, and then with the wind on her quarter swoop down suddenly on the

her quarter swoop down suddenly on the

slaver.

Before weighing the officer of the deck of the Patrol said that a stern chase is a long chase. "From noon of July 30 to noon of August 2, when the message was found, is 144 bells, and the slaver has so much the start of us," was his summary of the situation. ation.
Along about two bells of the mid-watch

Along about two sells of the inid-watch the Patrol was sighted returning. The lookout in the crow's nest had seen a vessel in the offing, but the craft had slipped away in the darkness, and as it was the sergeant's morning home, the Patrol put back to her pier to await the finding of the next bottle. SIXTY-NINTH'S TRIP TO BOSTON.

Preparations for the Reception and Entertainment of the Regiment.

Boston, Aug. 3.-Col. Duffy and the officers of the Sixty-ninth Regiment of New York, visited this city yesterday to make the necessary arrangements for the visit of the regiment here the Sunday before Labor Day, when they will be the guests of the Ninth Massachusetts. The Sixty-ninth will leave New York by the Fall River Line on Saturday evening preceding Labor Day. On arrival here Sunday morning they will be met by the officers and a special reception committee of the Ninth Infantry, M. V. M., and escorted to the East Armory where the men will leave their equipments. Breakfast will then be in order, after which both regiments will form for the Breakfast will then be in order, after which both regiments will form for the march to the Cathedral to attend mass. After church the men will have the freedom of the city and the officers of the Ninth will take the officers of the Sixty-ninth on a drive to points of interest.

It is proposed that the Sixty-ninth band shall give an especial concert that the citizens of Boston may enjoy it on Sunday evening. The officers of the Ninth will on the same evening, tender a banquet to the officers of the Sixty-ninth, and the men of the Ninth will entertain their New York comrades individually.

On Monday the Sixty-ninth and the Ninth will take a trip down the harbor, and on their return will parade through the streets of the city proper. The Sixty-ninth will leave the same evening for home.

AT THE INGERSOLL HOMESTEAD. Relatives of the Late Agnostic Visit the

Places Where His Youth Was Spent.

ASHTABULA, Ohio, Aug. 3.-Miss Maude ngersoll, daughter of the late Col. Robert G. Ingersoll; Miss Eva Ingersoll Farrell, a iece, and John Hazelton, a former law partner of the noted agnostic; Alonzo Evans, a friend of the Ingersoll family, all of New York city, have just paid a visit to Ashtabula, where Robert G. Ingersoll's ther once preached in the Presbyterian hurch. They found that the old-fashioned church had been supplanted by a modern brick structure. The old Ingersoll residence on Main street, however, where Robert spent a part of his early life, looks to-day much as it did then. Of this old residence the party secured photographs as mementos. The New York party was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. William G. Pollock of Cloveland. They all want to Cloveland.

land. They all went to Cleveland from WED TO GET OUT OF JAIL. Sweetheart Prisoner Had Thumped Made

a Proposition He Jumped At. HACKENSACK, N. J., Aug. 3.-John Sieman, Russian, who was arrested last winter for interfering with an officer and was released on bail furnished by Hattie Fabigan, a young woman, has ever since wanted to marry her, but she refused be-cause she heard that John had a wife in Russia. Three days ago word came that Sieman was free. Meantime, Hattie objected to the manner in which he disposed of his leisure. He struck her while they were quarrelling about it and she had him arrested.

had him arrested.

To-day she went to the jail and he apologized. She said she would again go on his bail if he would marry her at once. He jumped at the chance and a Justice tied the knot. The Justice said he believed Hattie would boss the house

PRISONER HAD A "SURE THING." But the Detectives Wouldn't Allow Him to Play Locket at 30 to 1.

Lorenzo J. Jones, a salesman, was arrested early on Friday afternoon at Eighteenth street and Fourth avenue by Detective Sergeants McLaren and McGrath of Brooklyn, on a charge of stealing \$2,000 worth of silverware and jewelry from rooms which he had occupied with two rooms which he had occupied with two
other young men. On the way to Brocklyn
Jones begged the detectives to let him
drop into a poolroom. "I have a sure
tip on Bill Daly's horse Locket," he said.
"It is running at Brighton Beach to-day
and will win sure."

and will win sure."

He wasn't accommodated, but his prediction proved true, for Locket won at 30 to 1. Jones bewailed his ill luck all night behind the bars in the Adams street station. The detectives haven't explained their feelings.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

Deorge C. Tyler, Julio Opp and Other Stage People Arrive From England. George C. Tyler, the executive head of Liebler & Co., and W. F. Connor, of the Liebler staff, returned yesterday from a two months' stay in Europe, which they passed most delightfully, notwithstanding the fact that to Mr. Tyler at least it furnished only a slight relief from business cares. Their pleasure tours and business journeys took them to the more prominent cities on the Continent, and as far south as Rome, Naples and Venice. F. Marion Crawford, Israel Zangwill and Hall Caine came to London from their places of summer sojourn to meet and greet them, and Mr. Crawford accompanied them as far as Paris and afterward met them at Rome, where Mr. Crawford's acquaintanceship s peculiarly valuable.

In London Mr. Tyler saw Eleonora Duse's representative, Joseph Smith ward, while in Paris, a telegram from the Italian actress took him to Florence, where he had several consultations with her and practically agreed upon the terms and conditions of an American tour, which s to begin in October, 1902, and last forfifty performances, the tour embracing the principal cities of the country, four, or not over five performances being given each week. The D'Annunzio plays will be included in her repertory, that is, four of them, at least, these being D'Annunzio's version of "Francesca di Rimini." "La Giaconda," "Il Fuoco" and "The Dead City." The distinguished actress is to bring her own company and complete productions of the plays to be presented. Heretofore Duse has used only the scenery in theatres which she visited. The final arrangements were completed at Venice, whither Signora Duse's representative repaired to meet the m and close the contract.

"I have observed," said Mr. Tyler, "that rumor has had much to say of D'Annunzio's supposed connection with Duse's enterprises. I know nothing of that, but have good reasons for believing such statements very much exaggerated. Certain it is that he has nothing to do with this enterprise. My talk and arrangements were entirely with Mr. Smith and Mme. Duse. I met D'Annunzio in Florence and found him a very charming gentleman, but I know nothing about his intentions as to the future. I simply know that he has no connection with Mme. Duse's coming visit to

America."

"I have contracted," continued Mr. Tyler, "with Hall Caine for the production of his new story, "The Eternal City," a modern romance of great strength and power, invading fields comparatively untilled hitherst invading fields comparatively untilled hith-erto and dealing with questions of great pith and moment. Mrs. Humphrey Ward has made an excellent dramatization of her latest story, 'Eleanor,' and at her request I had several personal interviews with her, with the result, it is hoped, that a pro-duction may be one of the devolopments of the near future. Mrs. Ward expressed

duction may be one of the devolopments of the near future. Mrs. Ward expressed a desire to meet the man who was brave enough to put the Browning drama on the stage as a commercial possibility, and afterward to successfully demonstrate that his judgment was not in error.

Another theatrical passenger from Europe who arrived yesterday is Julie Opp, who will appear with William Faversham in "A Royal Rival" at the Criterion beginning Aug. 19. This is an American visit Miss Opp did not contemplate making when she left this country after her season at the Lyceum, during which she appeared in "The Princess and the Butterfly." She intended to return here at the head of her own company. During her Lyceum engagement she was at the call of George Alexander of the St. James Theatre, London, and since her return to London she has played continuously at the St. James. Recently she was engaged by Beerbohm Tree to appear with him in the leading rôle of a new English play, which was to have been produced at Her Majesty's Theatre early the coming season. A change in Mr. Tree's plans, however, was brought about by the turning over to him by Charles Frohman of the English rights of "The Last of the Dandies"

Less known theatrical European pas-sengers of yesterday were Drina Waters, Molly Mayne and Clarita Vidal. They will probably not remain obscure, as they will probably not remain obscure, as they come to figure in the "Florodora" sextet and are beautiful enough to be conspicuous even among such famous beauties. Lewis Hooper of the original sextet returned from a trip to England to take George de Long's place, when he returns next week to rehearse for "The Messenger Rev."

William Greet arranged yesterday with Charles Frohman to produce "The Helmet of Navarre" with Charles Dalton as the principal actor at the Garden Theatre on

Edwin Stevens of the Empire stock comoany is the latest engaged for William Faversham's company.

A name was selected and rehearsals started by the Russell Brothers' show will be called "Sweet vesterday. It will be called "S Marie" and will be produced at the toria on Sept. 23.

Pussy and the Fly Paper.

From the Morning Oregonian. A large and handsome Angora cat which is the pet and pride of a family in the south end of the city, and which, relying on this, makes himself very familiar, got into great trouble yesterday. Several sheets of sticky fly paper had been laid on a table near a sunny window to entrap wandering flies. The cat, desiring to look out at the window, leaped on the table and landed with all four feet on a sheet of the fly paper. At first he kept cool and endeavored to release one foot after another, but the paper ships clear than a brother. but the paper clung closer than a brother. Then he put his nose down to push the paper from his feet, and a loose end seized him by the whiskers and fastened to his fore-head, blinding him. Then he was scared, and the trouble commenced, and a sort of furry, long-tailed thunderbolt went rolling over the carpet, emitting the most went rolling yells and caterwaulings and turning everything upside down. The family hastened to the relief of their favorite, and more than one of them felt his teeth and claws pefore he was put in a condition to

How Jam te Landed His Big Fish.

From the Nebraska State Journal. FREMONT, Neb., July 22.-A fifty-two pound catfish was taken from a shallow pool formed by the subsidence of the Platte River, a few days ago. Jamie McLean, a boy of about 15 years, was going after some of his father's horses in Saunders county and happened to hear a splashing of the water behind him. He looked around of the water behind him. He looked around and beheld a fish of huge proportions floundering around in the pool. He at once formed a lasso of the rope he was carrying and proceeded to fasten it round the head of the fish. While he was thus engaged the creature knocked him down once with its tail, but he finally managed to get the rope in place. He then mounted his horse and fastened the end of the rope to the saddle and started for the shore. The fish was so strong that progress was made but slowly, and at one time the horse began to sink in a bed of quicksand, but after con-siderable pulling and hauling the catch was safely landed.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

A delegation of East Side ash pediers is going to call on a ting Mayor Guggenheimer on Monday to ask him to have the Sanitary Code sections applying to them modified, and to have the police less rigorous in their treatment of the pediers.

In their treatment of the pediers.

The battle flags of the First Regiment, New York Volunteers, which were excrised through the campaigns in which it took part in the Mexican War are preserved in the diovermor's room at the City Hall, and yesterday Francis E. Laimbeer called on Acting Mayor dug genhelmer and asked permission to put in the glass case with them a history of the regiment written on parchment by his maternal grandfather, F. E. Pinto who was a licutenant in the regiment. Mr. Guggenhelmer gave the permission.

FEAR OF LEPROSY IN EUROPE.

SPREAD OF THE DISEASE CAUSED BY COLONIAL EXPANSION. Leper Sanftarium Established in Ger

many-One Proposed in France-Lax

Incident to colonial expansion there has been, particularly in France and Germany, so marked an increase in the number of cases of leprosy in Europe that the matter is receiving serious attention. There are even alarmists who say that western Europe s on the eve of another outbreak of the disease such as followed the return of the

The question was brought up before the French Academy of Medicine in 1885 and 1888. In Berlin, in 1897, there was an international medical conference to consider precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease. On May 21 last, Dr. Besnier of the French Academy of Medicine declared that it was advisable to establish in France a national leprosy sanitarium where persons tainted with the disease might be isolated. Taking this state of affairs for his text,

Taking this state of affairs for his text, M. Dastre has contributed to the Revus des Deux Mondes a study of leprosy and the present danger of a spread of the disease. He points out that in two regions in France leprosy has existed continuously since the middle ages. These are Brittany and the neighborhood of Nice. The Nice lepers are supposed to be descended from a leper colony that dated back to the Saracen invasion.

a leper colony that unted back to the cen invasion.

As recently as 1888 two distinct outbreaks of the disease occurred along the Alpes-Maritimes coast, causing the death of some twenty persons. Individual cases of the disease are still found in the neighborhood. In Brittany leprosy in the seventeenth century was very widespread. enteenth century was very widespread and it has never been entirely stamped

In a majority of the recently imported cases from the French colonies in the Orient cases from the French colonies in the Orient the patients are Government employees commercial travellers, missionaries, sol-diers and sisters of charity. All told it is estimated that the proposed leper colony in France would begin with between 300 and 400 patients. Germany established a leper sanitarium

two years ago. Up to 1840 the disease was unknown in Russia. A few years ago it appeared in the Mernel district, causing the death of nineteen persons. In 1899 seventeen districts around the city were found to be contaminated and the sanitary department of the German Government. tary department of the German Governmen opened a leper hospital to which all sufferers were forced to go and in which the isolation from the outer world was complete. The regulations on the subject are very strict, as was shown in the case of a German merchant who came home to en-joy a fortune which he had amassed in one of the tainted colonies and who was found to be suffering from leprosy.

He was ordered to move out of the town

forthwith, purchase a country house remote from all neighbors and then live absolutely isolated from the world under penalty of being removed to the leper hospital The authorities even went so far as to designate the particular room in the house which the leper and each of the members his family were to occupy.

Great Britain, with more foreign pos

sessions in which leprosy prevails than any other country in the world has always fully protected herself from invasions of the scourge. In the thirty years from 1868 to 1898 only ninety-six imported cases

were reported.

In Portugal it is estimated that there In Portugal it is estimated that there are in the neighborhood of 1,000 cases of leprosy, while in Spain there are a certain number of breeding places of the disease. The lepers in Spain are not isolated. They work in the fields and act as shepherds. Some of them even may. They are avoided the property of their disease.

only when the manifestations of their dis-ease are particularly pronounced.

There is one leprosy-infested region of Spain which has a curious history. It is Sagra in the Province of Alicante. Leprosy was unknown there until 1850, Leprosy was unknown there until 1850, when it was introduced by a man who had returned from the Philippines to enjoy the fortune he had acquired. The case was so far similiar to that of the German merchant already described. Spanish methods are not as thorough-going as German and no restraint was put on the leper. He communicated the disease to his friends first and it gradually spread to the near-by villages of Jalon, Parcent and Orba. Within a very few years more than 200 persons were pronoun and only recently as many as 150 of these

unfortunates were still living.

In Italy the lepers are only 100 or s in number and are principally limited to a few small groups in Liguria and Sicily. In Greece the lepers have the saddest lot of anywhere in Europe. They are forced to take refuge like wild animals in caves and huts remote from their fellow men. It seems to be a settled conviction in the popular mind that the only thing a leper popular mind that the only thing a leper ought to do is to die and be as quick about it as possible.

There are many lepers in Turkey. In Constantinople alone there are, accord-ing to an eminent Turkish authority, Zam-

baco Pasha, no fewer than 600, who roam about freely and get their living by so-liciting alms.

One of the worst leprosy-scourged coun-

tries in Europe in modern way, where in 1856 there were no fewer way, where in 1856 there were no fewer than 3,000 known cases. One thing rethan 3,000 known cases was established in tries in Europe in modern times was Norgarding the disease was established in Norway beyond peradventure, and that is that by isolation, and by isolation only, can the plague be stamped out. Dr. Han-sen obtained a stamped out. Dr. Han-ment providing for the isolation of the infected and then caused five leper hos-pitals to be established. In 1890 the num-ber of lepers had fallen to 800, and to-day there are not more than 180 left in all 300. there are not more than 180 left in all Nor-way. This is overwhelming proof of the way. This is overwhelming proof of the efficacy of isolation in stamping out the disease

Prof. Neisser of Breslau has isolated the leprosy bacillus. The bacillus is long in form and so resembles that of tuber-culosis that Danielssen affirmed that the two were identical, an affirmation which since has been fully confuted.

Gardener Inherits a Fortune.

PORT CHESTER, N. Y., Aug. 3.-Rudolph Lortsche, a Swiss gardener, for twentythree years employed by William J. Tingue, President of the Felt Trust, at his summer home here, received word yesterday from Pierre, S. D. that his brother, Jacob Lortsche had died near that city and left an estate valued at about \$50,000. The gardener will inherit the larger part of it.

From the Chicago Evening Post. "Yes," said a young man, "I've quit, and I want to say that I think these stories and I want to say that I think these stories of the way men get ahead in the world are all fairy tales. I've tried the methods and know. Only a few days ago I read about Tom L. Johnson making his first big hit with the manager of a street railroad by picking up the scrap iron he found lying around. 'You're the kind of a carelying around. You're the kind of a care-lying around. You're the kind of a care-ful man I want, said the manager, and be ful man I want, right away. That was promoted him right away. That was enough for me, so I began picking up things whenever the boss was near.

"What are you doing?" he demanded

"'What are you doing?' he demanded yesterday.

"'There's no use letting these things go to waste, sir,' I answered, for that's what Tom Johnson said.

"'Of course not,' he said, and we tire men for a dollar a day to do just that class of work. But we can't afford to have clerks wasting their time over it. Hump yourself back into the office now or I'll have you on the pay roll as a day laborer.'

"So I quit. Somehow things don't seem to happen in real life the way they do in to happen in real life the way they do in

WAGE WAR BITE CURE AND INSECT

EASY TO PICK UP SNAKES.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat

William Lee, whose houseboat is anchored near the Davis street ferry landing, is a professional snake catcher. To him a man of inquiring turn went and asked to be shown how he plied his trade.

"So you are interested in snakes, are you?" said Mr. Lee. "Well, I know a thing or two about them, and I don't mind telling you, if you've got time to listen, or showing you, if you'd like to take a trip with me."

The investigator said he was athirst for snakelore, and wanted to be told and shown

"All right," said Mr. Lee, "I've got a few snakes on hand now, and you can look at them; then, if you'll meet me to-morrow we will go out and catch some more. Ever catch a snake?"

The investigator admitted that he neve had, and confessed a doubt that he had

enough courage to try. "Well, there is something of a knack in it," conceded Mr. Lee, "and I reckon you'd better let me do the work, unless we run across a garter snake or a racer for you to try your hand on. They can't hurt you you know. As a matter of fact, though there are not many snakes that are really deadly. Out of the several hundred varieties found in this latitude, there are not half a dozen whose bite is more to be dreaded than the sting of a bee. The ones to be afraid of are the cotton-mouths, the rattlers and the copperheads. There are several kinds of cotton-mouths, all of them worse than the rattlers, for they are more sluggish, and wont get out of a man's way. Besides, they don't have to coil to strike, and a

rattler does. A little south of here we find a very small snake that is said to be even more deadly than a cotton-mouth. It is similar to the kariet of India, which kills more people than the cobra does. The negroes call this reptile the white-oak snake. It is very rare. I never saw but one of them, although I have been in the snake catching business twenty years. The specimen I saw was only about 15 inches long. It was marked something like a rattler, and had the broad flat head of the most poisonous species. I did not have the opportunity to examine it for the poison sacs, but I am confident it had them. The negro who had it said it had bitten a dog and the dog died in two hours. If that was true the white oak snake is much more deadly than the rattler, for the bite of a rattlesnake rarely ever kills a dog. But come in and see my collection of snakes."

collection of snakes."

In the rear apartment of the houseboat Lee keeps his stock of snakes. They occupy a box about 4 feet long 2 feet wide and 2 feet deep, divided in two compartments. The non-poisonous snakes are kept in one section and the poisonous ones in the other. "I've only got six rattlers, three cotton-mouths and a couple of copperheads," said the proprietor, "but here is as fine an assortment of racers and moccasins as you ever saw."

sortment of racers and moccasins as you ever saw."

Thrusting his hand into the wriggling squirming mass in the compartment for the non-poisonous i.ee brought out a gray and black serpent of most elegant and slender shape. "This," said he, "is a king snake. He is a cannibal, and he gives me trouble by eating one of of his roommates occasionally. He can whip any rattlesnake that ever crawled and is always dead willing to do it. This (producing another) is a rattlesnake pilot. Whenever you see one of these snakes you may be sure that there is a rattler close by. It is venomous, but not deadly—about like a water moccasin. You will observe that the rattlesnake pilot is marked very much like the rattlesnake, but he has not the broad, flat head of the latter. That is because he has not the big poison bags."

poison bags.

So, from snake to snake did the professional pass, telling of the idiosyncrasies of each, and handling them with as little fear as a small boy does a fish worm. In handling grasp the snake firmly close to the head and let the tail wave free. The other was to catch the snake about 5 inches from the tail and hold it head downward.

"Poisonous snakes," explained the expert "are heavy, and cannot raise the weight o their body by the tail as the constrictors can, consequently if you are careful to hold them head down they cannot reach up and strike you."

After exhibiting his stock of snakes Lee

renewed his promise to take the investiga-tor on a snake-hunting expedition next day. He kept his word. The two started short-

He kept his word. The two started shortly after sunrise, rowing across the river in a skiff, then striking for a swamp in the American bottom, below East Carondelet. Lee carried a bag and a heavy stick about 3½ feet long.

"This has been a great year for snake-catching," he said. "The drought has driven the snakes out of the hills and fields to the vicinity of the lakes and ponds, and they are easy to locate. We are getting into good hunting ground snow, and I guess I'd better get ready for work."

The getting ready consisted of slipping on a pair of thick leather gloves and hanging

a pair of thick leather gloves and hanging the bag across his shoulders. Keeping a keen eye on the ground alongside of the path, Lee strode along, "talking snake" as he went.

"I sell post of my snakes to a Chicago concern that makes oil of them," he said, "and the others are taken by museums and snake charmers. The snakes that you see snake charmers. The snakes that you see handled in shows are nearly all harmless. At least the persons who handle them think they are, although sometimes they are not, You see, when we catch a bad snake we usually draw its fangs. This renders them harmless for a time, but the fangs grow out again, and they are as dangerous as a correct with they have got used to heine, have got used to heine, have got used to heine, have out again, and they are as dangerous as ever, but they have got used to being handled by that time and don't try to bite unless the handler pinches them. The only way to permanently render a bad snake harmless without killing it is to burn out the poison bags. This is done with caustic and is better then drawing the fangs, but it is a very delicate operation, and not many men in the business know exactly how to do it. Hello! There's a snake!"

There was a greenish blue streak gliding through the bush at the side of the road. Lee made a detour and headed the snake back toward the open path. It was only a garter snake, but when it had been headed a couple of times it showed resentment and coming to a halt coiled as though it would strike.

would strike.
"Pick him up; he can't hurt you," said

The investigator declined.
"Well, watch me," said the expert. "I'll just pretend that this is a dangerous customer, although he isn't. Drawing near the snake, Lee poked at it with the stick be carried. The reptile struck at the stick. Before it could re-

cover itself Lee dropped the stick on it Discovered a Snake Mine From the Chicago Tribune.

PIERRE, S. D., July 25 .- The settlers along White River, near Interior, have been troubled with rattlesnakes, and it was often noticed that they were numerous about a certain binf on the river. A few days ago R. P. Whitfield, a rancher in that vicinity, accompanied by one of his men, investigated and found the bluff honeycombed with small caves full of snakes. The ranchers dug out and killed 237 on the first day. Some of the reptiles were monsters of their kind, measuring several feet in length, and their rattles showed that they had occupied their hill-side home for many years. The following day they returned and dug out and killed 40 more, making over 300 rattlers disposed

of in the two days. They dug into another of the caves, which was filled with the bones of dead snakes, which is believed to have been a place where



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NEW IRRIGATION IN KANSAS. The Reservoir System to Be Tried on a Large Scale.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. ABILENE, Kan., July 26.-The Kansas farmer has been aroused to the necessity of moistening his fields artificially if he is to harvest regular crops. The western counties out of which 125,000 people moved in the half dozen years succeeding 1890 are filling up again, but with another class of residents. Those coming now are cattlemen, small ranch owners and wheat grow-

ers. They have planned their operations differently from the early days, and every farm and ranch has a method of securing some moisture outside of that furnished by the infrequent clouds. On a large scale the reservoir system of irrigation is being taken up. It has been demonstrated that the prairie rivers

will not furnish enough water to keep the ditches filled regularly. The Arkansas River is dry nearly all the summer. Over its half-mile bed one may cross on white sands and not moisten a lady's shoe. At times, notably in June, when the sun first melts the snow in the mountains, there is a rise, and the water fills the whole river bed eight to ten feet deep. The irrigators propose to save this water, leading it by large canals back from the river to the sites of ancient lakes, many of which are found on the plains. In eastern Colorado five such reserving heart lakes, been been colorado five such enough water to irrigate a territory forty miles in diameter. The Kansas Legislature has just put into effect a law by which land for such reservoirs may be condemned by the courts and converted into a public utility. One extensive undertaking has been begun, the transformation of what is known as the Cheyenne bottoms into a lake. This as the Cheyenne bottoms into a lake. Imis is a sunken bit of ground, thirteen miles long and eight miles wide, surrounded by a ridge nineteen to thirty feet high. It was once a lake, but has been used as a coursing ground and pasture land since the State's settlement. The American Coursing Association for many years held its meets here, and many millionaires came in private cars to enjoy the sport. name in private cars to enjoy the sport. Members of the English nobility from Montana ranches also came with valets and servants. Huge canals leading from the Arkansas River, a dozen miles away, have been dug and at high water the whole depression will be converted into a lake. At the lower end will be a twenty-five foot

depression will be converted into a lake. At the lower end will be a twenty-five foot fall, where the overflow will give power to an electric plant sufficient to run a mill and probably a trollev line to connect the villages around the lake. It will be the largest body of water between the Missouri River and the mountains, and as such will attract much attention.

More important, perhaps, than the reserved is the invitable irrigation that is undertaken by farmers all over the State. In the whole semi-arid belt searcely a farmer is found who has not some plan for watering a few acres near his house, if not several fields. The "jumbo" windmills consisting of four-fan, water-wheel contrivances, with the lower half boxed up, are familiar on the Western plains, and the horizontal windmill, made at the expense of a few dollars, yet lifting hundreds of barrels of water daily, is making the farmer independent of the rainfall. The horizontal mill is easily handled, and is in no danger from the high winds that wreck those on towers. The winds that wreck those on towers. The prarie winds are mostly from the south of

southwest, so that no great variation of direction is needed.

The underflow, or sheet-water, always found at a depth of twenty to thirty feet on the bottom lands, gives an inexhaustible supply of water. No mill can run dry, and the straight and speakers in the straight of the straight garden and small truck patch are kept in growing condition, even though the dreaded hot winds" blow. It is proving the salva tion of the Western farmer, and is making

him independent. Colonies are being organized to utilize th irrigated lands under the reservoirs. Agents of the companies owning the ditches have been sent to Europe and among the Germans of Pennsylvania offering free trans-portation and other inducements, such as free rent for a year. A beet sugar refinery has been erected at Lamar, and another will be built at La Junta. Sugar beets grow luxuriantly, and if enough colonists can be secured to till the lands there will be a most successful future for this industry. During the year it has been in operation it has proved extraordinarily prosperous. It is or crop that the Western prairies can raise in

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